Protection of Pahari Maynah

1079. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact, that talking Bird Pahari Maynah, a rare species on the verge of extinction in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh, as reported in India Today dated 24th June, 2002;

(b) what steps Government propose to take against poachers of such birds; and

(c) the details of steps Government propose to take for preservation, against poaching and for growth of such birds?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No scientific data regarding status of Pahari Maynah in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh is available. However, State Government has reported a decline in the number of this species in Chhattisgarh State.

(b) and (c) Hunting of all wild animals is banned under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, State Government have been requsted from time to time to ensure effective implementation of the provisions of the Act.

Central funds for Forest Protection

1080. SHRI J. CHATHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provide funds to State Governments for forest protection activities, for procurement of wireless sets and other equipments; and

(b) if so, the amount provided to State Governments during the years 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir, The Government has provided central assistance to